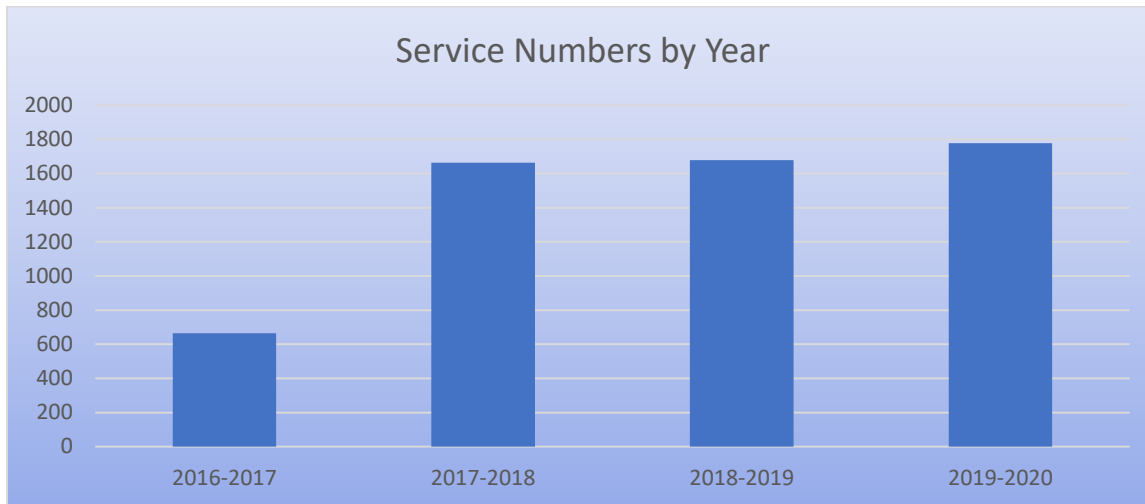


## DMCPS Education Liaison Summary Report

July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020

A total of 1, 778 individual DMCPS Children were served during this past year. There has been a steady increase in the number of referrals to the Liaison Department. In 2016/2017, the Education Liaison department served 664 children, in 2017/2018 there were 1,664 children served, which represents a 150% increase. Similarly, in 2018/2019 there were 1,758 children served and in 2019-2020 there were 1,778.

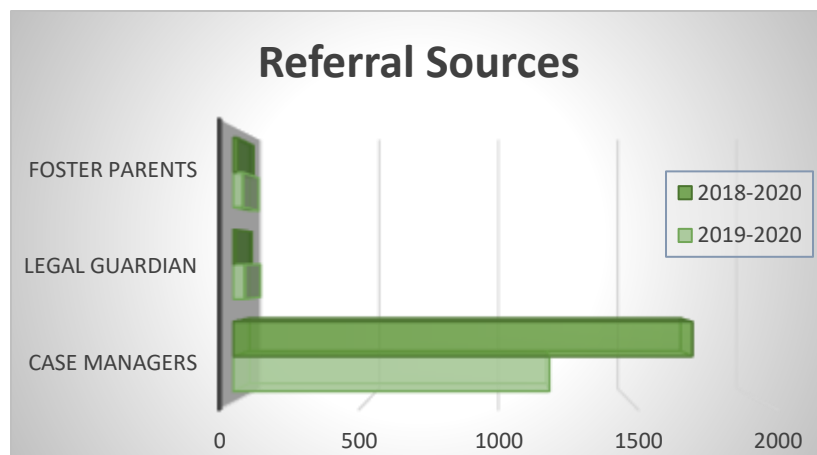
**Chart #1 shows the number of children who were served each year.**



**Chart #2**

As seen in Chart #2, the largest age population served is adolescents (41%). The challenges of adolescent adjustments and transitions to High School appear to be substantiated with this data. At 31%, the early childhood and early elementary populations are the 2<sup>nd</sup> tier to be served and finally 27 % served fall within the 11 to 13 age distribution.

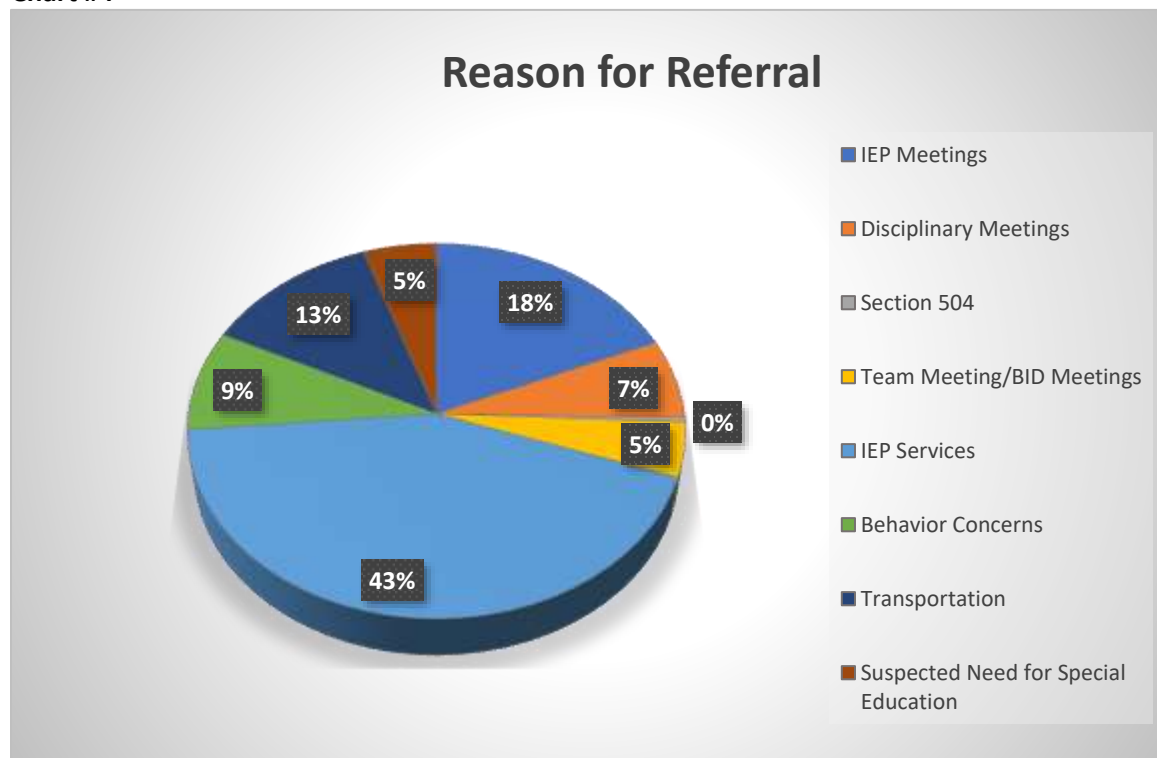
**Chart #3**



Referral Sources for 2019-2020 were almost exclusively from Case Managers (67%). However, there was slight increase of 4.5% in contacts from Legal Guardians and Foster Parents compared to the 2018/2019 Report.

The array of reasons for referral is seen in Chart #4. Collapsing these individual categories into groupings helps clarify the largest concerns. Overall reason for referral includes IEP services (43%) IEP meetings (18%), Disciplinary meetings (5%), Behavior Concerns (9%), Transportation (13%), Suspected Need for Special Education (5%) and 6 Section 504 meetings. Although the tracking of referrals has changed somewhat across time, the overall referral pattern is similar to previous year reports.

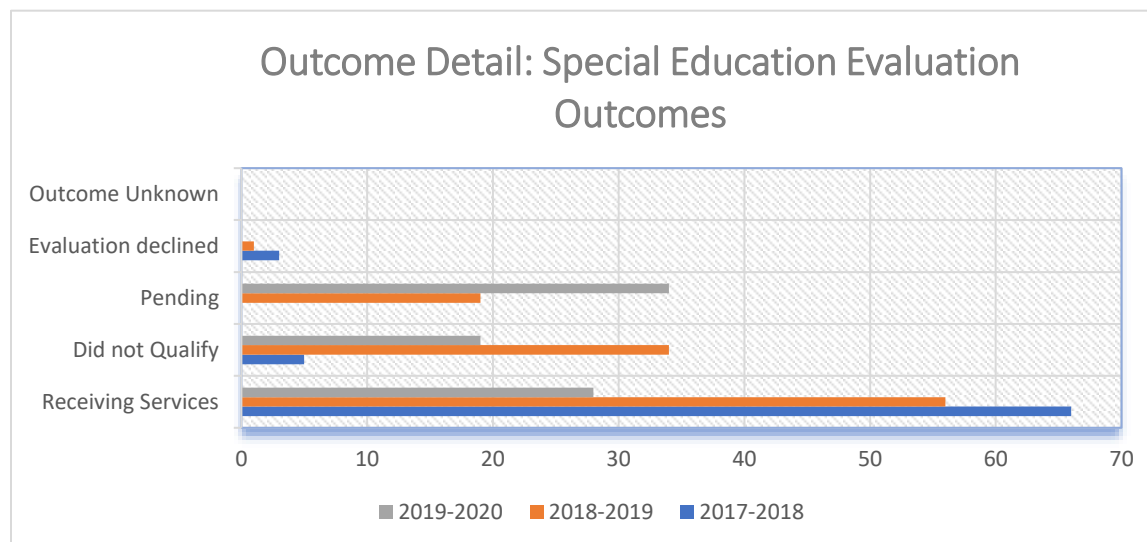
**Chart #4**



## Outcome Detail

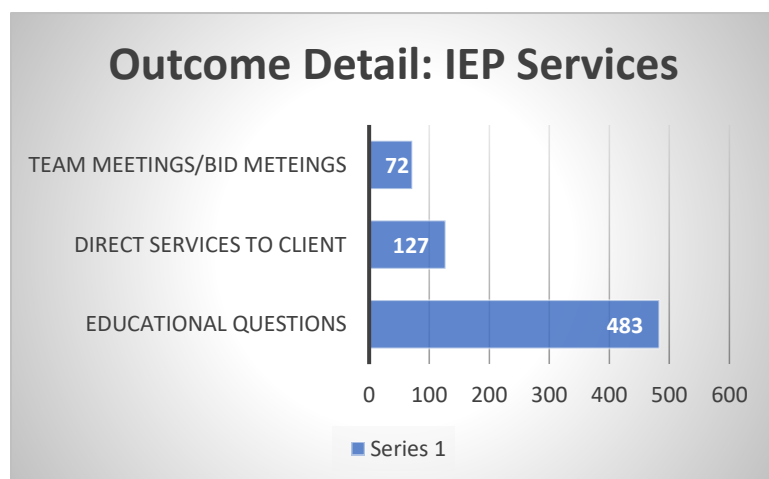
Elementary years are the time when most children are identified, early intervention has the potential to make the greatest positive impact on learning. The Education Liaison Department initiated a total of 265 IDEA referrals from 2017 to 2020. As seen in Chart #5, the number of pending evaluation outcomes seems to fluctuate dramatically from year to year, from a high 38% to a low 4%. This fluctuation is related to the timeline as to when the referral was submitted and most recently due to the COVID-19 and school closures.

Chart # 5



An in-depth look at the outcomes of Reason for Referral appear to show that IEP services (43%) and IEP Meetings (18%) account for most of the contacts made to the Educational Liaison Department.

Chart #6



This year the Liaison Department has received several questions and request to help students and families navigate the ever-evolving Educational system created as a result of the Pandemic. We have added a new category group "IEP Services". These services include, "Educational Questions and Direct Service to Client". We provided direct services to 127 clients and answered 483 Educational Questions. The remaining Services include Educational Records

Request, Team Meetings and Best Interest Determination Meetings.

IEP Meetings are conducted annually, when a child is due for a reevaluation, when academic and /or behavioral issues arise. It is important to note that when schools closed in March 2020 due to the pandemic many school districts were not prepared. As a result, services may have lapsed. For this reason, when school resumed in September, our department encouraged many families to request a review of their child's IEP to ensure that they had adequate support and to hold schools accountable for providing additional services as a result of the school closure. As depicted on Chart # 7, 61% of the IEP meetings that a Liaison attended were for the purpose of reassessing and revising the IEP.

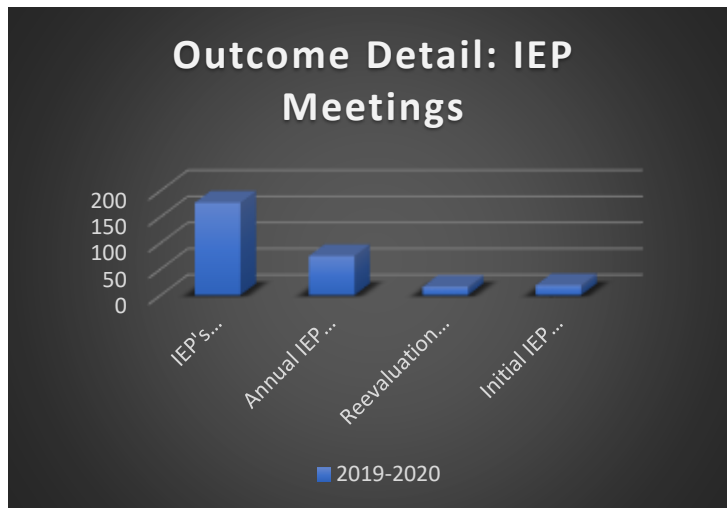
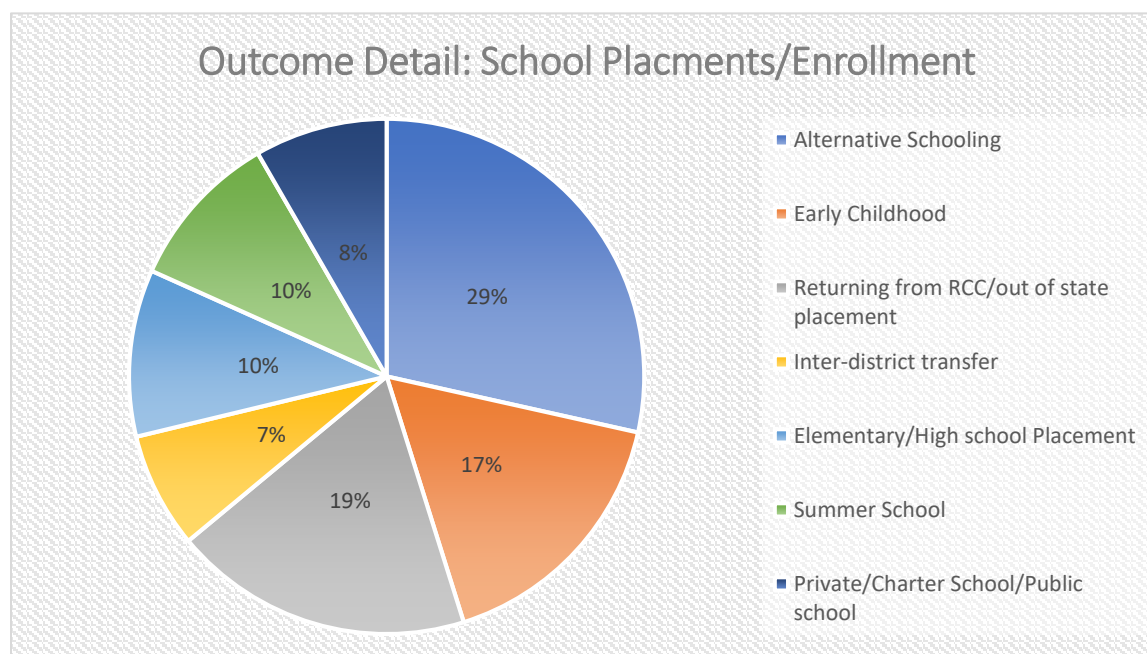


Chart # 7

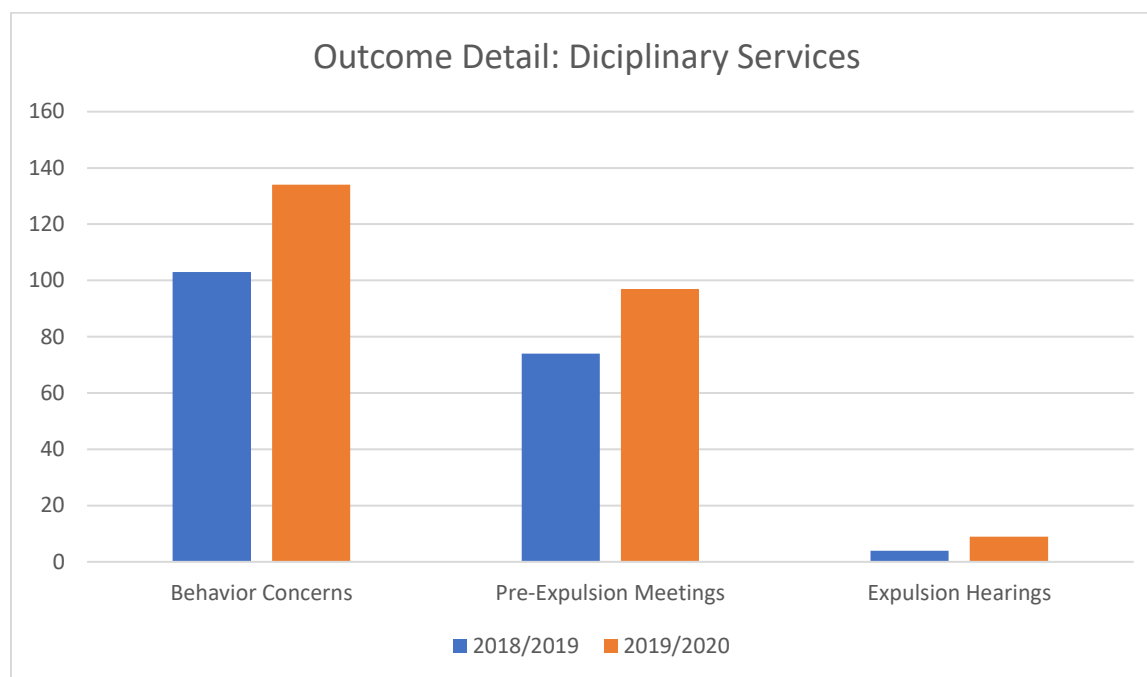
Further investigation of the school placement/enrollment data suggests that of the 378 youth that had placement/enrollment needs 29 % were Alternative schooling enrollments, 17% were early childhood , 19% were youth returning home from RCC and or/ Out of State placements, 7% were inter-district transfers, 10 % were youth transitioning to Middle School or High School, 10% were summer school enrollments and 8 % were youth returning to or entering the public school system from Private or Charter school placements.

Chart # 8



Tracking Disciplinary trends are critical to educational stability, the goal is to keep children and youth in school as much as possible. Chart 8 depicts a comparison of 2018/19 to 2019/20 numbers by disciplinary category groupings. Not surprisingly, the data shows an increase in behavior concerns. However, all these concerns were resolved via the IEP revision process. Pre-Expulsion meetings have also increased however, 82 of them were determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability therefore the student remained in school. In 15 instances, the behavior in question was deemed not to be a manifestation of the student's disability. Due to the Liaisons advocacy these students were not expelled, these students continued their education via an alternative placement. Expulsion Hearings numbers have decreased slightly, one regular youth was expelled without services, one had the duration of time reduced and 5 were expelled with services and reassigned to an Alternative placement.

**Chart # 9**



The role of the Education Liaison includes the Eductaion of stakeholders. This past year, there were 9 DMCPs trainings reaching a total of 153 participants.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Shafer

Education Liaison Department Program Manager, DMCPs

November 2020